

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4 (amended sheet), line 1 as follows:

According to the present invention, in the ion elution unit constructed as described above, a water inflow port and a water outflow port are formed in the casing of the ion elution unit, and the outflow port is given a ~~larger~~smaller cross-sectional area than the inflow port. With this construction, the outflow port of the ion elution unit has a smaller cross-sectional area, and hence a higher flow passage resistance, than the inflow port thereof. Thus, the water that has entered the casing through the inflow port fills the interior of the casing without leaving a lump of stagnant air, and thus completely immerses the electrodes. This permits no part of the electrodes to be left uninvolved in the generation of metal ions and remain uneluted.